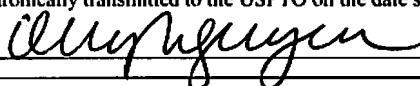


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: April 15, 2009

Signature: _____

 (Quyen Nguyen)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/824,936
Confirmation No.: 7289
Filing Date: April 14, 2004
Inventor(s): Vahid SAADAT et al.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING ENDOLUMINAL ACCESS
Examiner: Matthew J. Kasztejna
Group Art Unit: 3739

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 15, 2008 in the above-identified United States Patent Application. Filed herewith is a petition and fee requesting a three-month extension of time to file this response. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Also filed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.